



Town of *Westford* Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

November 2018



**Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager**

jross@westfordma.gov
www.westfordma.gov/tm
978-692-5500

Important:

Please sign up to
receive updates on the
latest road construction
in town.

[Subscribe to
Notifications](#)



**Cameron Senior Center
Holiday Boutique
November 26 to
December 1, 9AM to 3PM**

**Leaf Collection
Saturday, December 1
See page 11 for details**

**Holiday Breakfast
Hosted by the Selectmen
and Town Manager
Wed, December 5th
8:30AM
Cameron Senior Center**



Watch
Meetings Online
westford 
community access television
www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

Our new Fletcher Fire Station 1 opened on November 1st with our Firefighters/ Paramedics entering their new home! The project came in on time and under budget. We will be holding an open house to show off our new facility in December. The board thanked the Permanent Town Building Committee, Context Architects, our OPM from Vertex and members of our Westford Fire Department for all of their efforts on this project.



Fletcher Fire Station 1 - Photo courtesy of Michael Woessner.

A special thank you to our new Veterans' Services Officer, Ryan Cobleigh, Selectman Almeida, State Rep Jim Arciero, and others who recognized our Veterans and their families on November 11th.

At their November 13th meeting, our Board of Selectmen voted to adopt a single tax rate of \$16.56 per thousand for all classes of real property. The board voted not to adopt a small commercial exemption as they felt this gave small business owners tax relief at a greater extent than residents.

The board appointed 13 members to a 63 Main Street Task Force charged with investigating potential uses for the property. The new task force will report back to the board at their December 11th meeting with a timeline and draft charge.

After hearing a report from Assistant Town Manager Eric Heideman, that we were not picking up trash and recycling in a consistent manner across town, the board directed Selectman Clay, Highway Superintendent Chip Barrett, Assistant Town Manager Eric Heideman, Finance Director Dan O'Donnell, and a member from the Recycling Commission and Finance Committee to investigate, analyze, and make a recommendation for a consistent trash and recycling policy to the Selectmen at their January 22, 2019 meeting.

(Continued on next page)

WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV

The Selectmen established the 2019 Board of Selectmen/Town Manager Goals at their November 13th meeting. The goals are available at the following link: [2019 Board of Selectmen / Town Manager Goals](#).

The board approved raising the minimum wage for municipal employees according to MGL Chapter 151, Sections 1, 2 2A and 7, resulting in employees' minimum wage rising to \$12.00 effective January 1, 2019.

The board approved a new contract with Jeff Mount, who is our attendant/caretaker at East Boston Camps through October 31, 2019. They asked a group to look at our past performance with leasing the facilities at East Boston Camps to ensure proper fees are charged and that we have the staff capacity to manage our events.

Our Board of Selectmen approved the Notice of Intent for our town's stormwater management program, as required by the Environmental Protection Agency at their September 25th meeting. You will be learning more about the possible creation of a stormwater utility over the next several months with a question about the final adoption of the utility at our annual town meeting.

The 12 North Main Street Task Force and the Selectmen decided to release a new Request for Proposals (RFP) for the anodizing mill at 12 North Main Street. One proposal was received on November 26th. This proposal will be reviewed by a group of officials with a recommendation made to the Selectmen at an upcoming meeting.

The Agricultural Commission is still looking for residents interested in planning for the return of the Farmers Market in 2019. Specifically, they are looking for interested residents who wish to be a part of gathering best practices from nearby farmers markets and local farms. Please send an email to Elizabeth Almeida at ealmeida@westfordma.gov if you wish to assist with this process.

I am pleased to announce after a lengthy Civil Service, deputy police chief assessment, and internal interview process, I have appointed Mark Chambers as Westford's new Deputy Police Chief effective November 4th, 2018. Please join me in congratulating Mark on this significant achievement!

Congratulations to our Health Agent Rae Dick who received the Michael Saraco award for knowledge, dedication and loyalty in the field of Public Health from the Mass Health Officers Association.



Health Agent Rae Dick with the Michael Saraco Award

I would also like to recognize the other candidates who applied for the position and participated in the process. All were professional, experienced, articulate, and demonstrated the caliber of superior police officers we have on our police force. Acting Deputy Victor Neal, Captain Ron Paulauskas, finalists in the process, and Lieutenant Don Pick and Lieutenant Jim Peloquin all performed in an outstanding manner throughout the selection exercises. We are fortunate to have these extremely competent police officers working in our town.

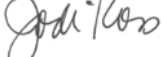
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There are several openings on our local boards and committees, including: 12 North Main Task Force, Affordable Housing Committee, Agricultural Commission, Board of Water Commissioners, Communications Advisory Committee, Community Center/Mill Works/Recreation Department Task Force, Cultural Council, Economic Development Committee, Healthy Westford Committee, Historical Commission, Parkerville Schoolhouse Committee, Pedestrian Safety Committee, Permanent Town Building Committee, Westford Scholarship and Grant Committee, Zoning Board of Appeals, and others. I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees; and if you have interest, please complete a Citizen's Activity form at this link: [Citizen Activity Form](#) or stop by and fill out a form in the Town Manager's office.

Would you like more detailed information on Board of Selectmen meetings? Click the following links to access: [Board of Selectmen Documents](#) & [Board of Selectmen Meeting Videos](#).

My best wishes to you and yours for a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,


Jodi Ross
Town Manager



*(L to R) Fire Chief Joe Targ,
Westford Firefighter/
Paramedic Jonathan Zielinski,
Deputy Fire Chief Dan Britko.
Attending Jonathan's
graduation from the
Massachusetts State
Firefighting Academy on
November 19th.*

Parks and Recreation

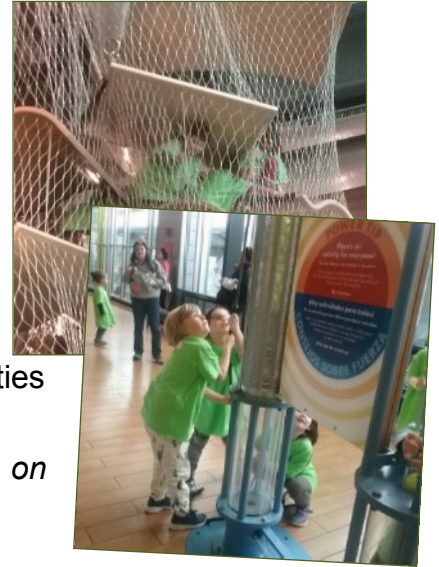
Westford Partnership for Children (WPC)

Westford Partnership for Children (WPC) for K-8 is a Parks & Recreation sponsored After School Enrichment Program in collaboration with Westford Public Schools. The program provides a selection of activities with flexible scheduling options in an environment that is safe, stimulating, and fun. WPC offers five sessions over the course of the school year that run Monday through Friday, from school dismissal until 5:45 p.m.

WPC Special Programs: On November 19, WPC offered a full-day program open to all K-8 students to accommodate parent-teacher conferences. 38 children joined WPC Site Directors and staff to visit the Boston Children's Museum where they explored a diverse offering of interactive exhibits such as Explore-a-Saurus, Japanese House, and KEVA Planks. Each year WPC offers several Special Program events that are educational and inspiring. For information about upcoming Special Program dates and public school early-release coverage see [WPC Special Programs](#) on westfordrec.com.

WPC Session 2 is currently in process with an end date of December 21. Enroll at any point during the session. Session 2 offers a range of activities such as *Book Club*, *Yoga*, *Dodge Ball*, and *Creative Science*.

Registration forms can be found at 22 Town Farm Road or visit [About WPC](#) on westfordrec.com.



The November WPC Special Program at Boston Children's Museum.

Fall and Winter Programs Starting Soon

For Adults:

Qi Gong and Tai Chi with Dave Crocker – My Health Preservation, 12-Method Qigong (Part 1): Reduce stress, improve balance, and expand range-of-motion. Session 3 starts on Thursday, November 29.

Coed Volleyball - Beginner to Intermediate: Enjoy a friendly, non-competitive evening of volleyball on Fridays, from 6:30-9:00 p.m. Join at any time – drop in fee is \$5. Starts on November 30.

For Juniors:

Impact Speed and Agility with Coach D.J. Brock: Enhance a young athlete's speed, agility, and coordination through fundamental skills and drills. Winter Session 1 starts on November 27. For ages 8-18.

Nitehawks - Winter Indoor Track and Field for grades 1-4 and Elite Indoor Track for grades 5-8: Run, throw, jump. Have some fun while learning the sport of track and field. Programs start on December 5.

Coming in January:

Aikido at Mill City - Session 2; Cardio and Fitness Fun for adults - Session 3; CPR, AED, and First Aid - January 9; Seth Dichard Premier Golf School programs for Lil' Chippers, Juniors, and Adults - Session 2; and Qi Gong and Tai Chi – My Health Preservation, 12-Method Qi Gong (Part 2) for adults - Session 4.

To register, visit [Programs](#) on westfordrec.com, or see our online [2018-2019 Fall-Winter Brochure](#). For more information about any of our programming or facilities, please call us at 978-692-5532 or visit us at westfordrec.com.

Health Department

The Westford Health Department would like to share some food safety thoughts from www.foodsafety.gov . Protect you family through proper food safety during the holidays and the rest of the year too!

Food Safety Myths Exposed

We all do our best to serve our families food that's safe and healthy, but some common myths about food safety might surprise you.

Common myths about food safety at home

Myth #1: Food poisoning isn't that big of a deal. I just have to tough it out for a day or two and then it's over.

Fact: Many people don't know it, but some foodborne illnesses can actually lead to long-term health conditions, and 3,000 Americans a year die from foodborne illness. [Get the facts on long-term effects of food poisoning](#).

Myth #2: It's OK to thaw meat on the counter. Since it starts out frozen, bacteria isn't really a problem.

Fact: Actually, bacteria grow surprisingly rapidly at room temperatures, so the counter is never a place you should thaw foods. Instead, [thaw foods the right way](#).

Myth #3: When cleaning my kitchen, the more bleach I use, the better. More bleach kills more bacteria, so it's safer for my family.

Fact: There is actually no advantage to using more bleach than needed. To [clean kitchen surfaces effectively](#), use just one teaspoon of liquid, unscented bleach to one quart of water.

Myth #4: I don't need to wash fruits or vegetables if I'm going to peel them.

Fact: Because it's easy to transfer bacteria from the peel or rind you're cutting to the inside of your fruits and veggies, it's [important to wash all produce, even if you plan to peel it](#).

Myth #5: To get rid of any bacteria on my meat, poultry, or seafood, I should rinse off the juices with water first.

Fact: Actually, rinsing meat, poultry, or seafood with water can increase your chance of food poisoning by splashing juices (and any bacteria they might contain) onto your sink and counters. The best way to cook meat, poultry, or seafood safely is to [make sure you cook it to the right temperature](#).

Myth #6: The only reason to let food sit after it's been microwaved is to make sure you don't burn yourself on food that's too hot.

Fact: In fact, [letting microwaved food sit for a few minutes \("standing time"\)](#) helps your food cook more completely by allowing colder areas of food time to absorb heat from hotter areas of food.

Myth #7: Leftovers are safe to eat until they smell bad.

Fact: The kinds of bacteria that cause food poisoning do not affect the look, smell, or taste of food. To be safe, [use our Safe Storage Times chart](#) to make sure you know the right time to throw food out.

Myth #8: Once food has been cooked, all the bacteria have been killed, so I don't need to worry once it's "done."

Fact: Actually, the possibility of bacterial growth actually increases after cooking, because the drop in temperature allows bacteria to thrive. This is why [keeping cooked food warmed to the right temperature is critical for food safety](#).

Myth #9: Marinades are acidic, which kills bacteria—so it's OK to marinate foods on the counter.

Fact: Even in the presence of acidic marinade, bacteria can grow very rapidly at room temperatures. To marinate foods safely, it's important to [marinate them in the refrigerator](#).

Myth #10: If I really want my produce to be safe, I should wash fruits and veggies with soap or detergent before I use them.

Fact: In fact, it's best not to use soaps or detergents on produce, since these products can linger on foods and are not safe for consumption. [Using clean running water is actually the best way to remove bacteria and wash produce safely](#).

Westford Fire Department

The Annual Ham & Bean Supper was held at the Franco this past Saturday night for our Seniors. Presented by the Franco Club, Legion Post 159, and the Westford Firefighters Association.



Caroline Lemieux and Rachael Targ



Ben Simmons and Kurtis Triehly



Westford Fire is proud to announce that on Monday November 19, 2018, Westford Firefighter/ Paramedic Jonathan Zielinski graduated from the Massachusetts State Firefighting Academy. The Academy's fifty-day Career Recruit Firefighter Training Program provides rigorous professional training and provides our newest firefighters with the basic skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely. The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA), a division of the Department of Fire Services, offers this program tuition-free.



November at the J.V. Fletcher Library

Monday Mystery Book Club: Monday, Nov. 26 at 10:30 a.m. Wake up your week with a stimulating book discussion! We meet on the fourth Monday morning of each month @ 10:30 a.m. in the Mary Atwood Room. Our November selection is *The Decider* by Dick Francis. Copies of the current selection are available for check-out at the Main Desk. New members are always welcome. No registration required

Knitting Group: Monday, Nov. 26 at 6:30 p.m. Do you enjoy knitting? Our informal Knitting Group meets in the Mary Atwood Room on the second Monday of every month from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. AND the fourth Monday of every month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Please note there will only be one November meeting due to the Veterans Day holiday. This is a drop-in program that is open to all ages. Bring your latest project and share advice and socialize with other knitters! If you have any questions, please call Sarah Regan at 978-399-2309.

Pastel Paint Like the Masters: Thursday, Nov. 29 at 6 p.m. Greg Maichack demonstrates how beginners to accomplished artists can paint using the techniques of Georgia O'Keefe. Participants will produce their own pastel painting of a selected section of O'Keefe's mural, "The Miracle Flower." Ages 16 and up. Register online or in Information Services. All materials are provided. FREE! Limited to 30. Ages 16 and up.

Ukulele Strum Along: Saturday, Dec. 1 at 3 p.m. Learn to play by playing! Focusing on 2 and 3 chord songs, this program is for the beginner ukulele player who wants to practice and play music with others. Singing is encouraged. Ukuleles available to borrow, songs projected onto a screen so no music stands or books necessary. This program is open to adults and teens. Please note the new date and time. This program was rescheduled from November 24th. We hope this will be more convenient for anyone who will be out of town for Thanksgiving weekend. Register online or in the Information Services Department to borrow a ukulele, or just drop in with your own.

Christmas Traditions in Boston: Thursday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. Did you know that in 1659, Massachusetts banned the celebration of Christmas? Find out why from author Anthony Sammarco and his book, *Christmas Traditions in Boston*. He'll outline the celebration (or lack thereof) of Christmas over two centuries, from the Puritans to the mid-19th century introduction of the Christmas tree to Jordan Marsh's Enchanted Village. Register online or in the Information Services Department.

English Conversation Circle: Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. The English Conversation Circle is starting up again! The group has resumed its weekly meetings. They meet every Tuesday morning from 10:30 to 11:30 in the Mary Atwood Room. Practice your English conversation skills and meet new friends in a relaxed and friendly environment led by Carol Morse. FREE! Registration is not required. If you have any questions, please call Sarah Regan in Information Services at 978-399-2309.

Westford Job Seekers: Are you about to start a job search or are you in the midst of looking for a new job? One of the most effective ways to find a job is through networking. The **Westford Job Seekers** Network meets from 2-4:30 p.m. every Wednesday at the Library. For more information, contact Dina Kanabar at dkanabar@westfordma.gov or consult our website for the weekly meeting topics.

November Library Holiday Hours	
Thanksgiving Eve	Wednesday, Nov. 21 - Open 10- 5
Thanksgiving (2 days)	Thursday, Nov. 22; Friday, Nov. 23 - Closed

Cameron Center Event



**The Westford Chamber Players
will be presenting "An Unexpected
Trip to Europe" concert.**

The program includes classical chamber music by Dvorak, Glinka, Hoffmeister, Mazas, and Stamitz, featuring one of Mozart's greatest contributions to the world of Chamber Music--Viola Quintet in G minor K 516. It tells a story about how viola was finding its voice to become an expressive instrument leading some of the greatest music compositions. The concert will be hosted jointly by the Cameron Senior Center and Westford Chamber Players. Free admission. Donations are welcome (\$5-\$10 suggested). There will be a post-concert reception for the performers and the audience to connect. WCP is a non-profit organization, consisting of student and professional musicians who strive to provide quality music education and community service. The organization is aimed at cultivating the joy of playing music together and achieving high standard through mentorship programs and public performances.

November 27th
6:00 PM
Cameron Center

978-692-5523
Call before Wed, Nov. 21st to register

Cameron Senior Center

Festive Happenings and much more around the Cameron

Holiday Breakfast with our Selectmen and Town Manger

Wednesday, December 5th at 8:30A.M. at the Cameron.

Enjoy this homemade and festive breakfast made by our very own Town leaders.

This is a favorite tradition that so many enjoy so if you have never come before-Join us!

Please RSVP to 978-692-5523 and don't wait too long because seat go fast.



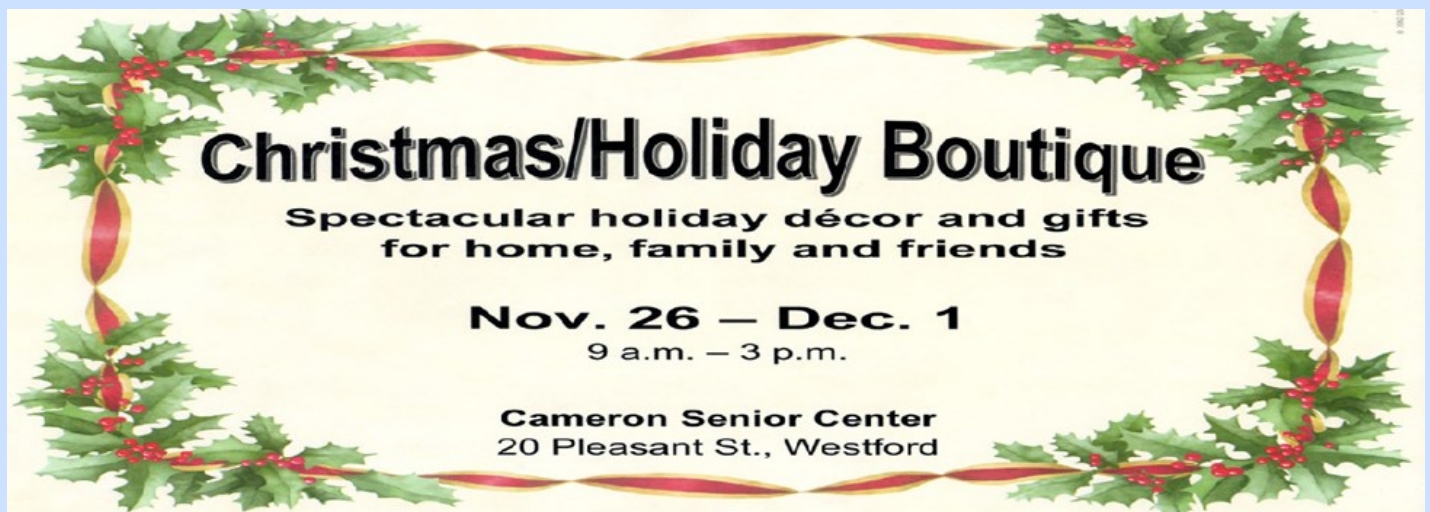
We would like to thank the Friends of the Cameron Senior Center and the Cummings Foundation for their sponsorship of this event.

Thanksgiving Holiday Basket touches many...



A wonderful partnership amongst the Cameron Senior Center, St. Vincent de Paul of St. Catherine of Alexandria and the Westford Food Pantry and a tremendous outreach of support from many local businesses, families/individuals, schools, places of worship, foundation over 100 families in Westford will have the opportunity to enjoy a delightful and abundant Thanksgiving dinner. Pictured L-R Holiday Basket Committee Members: Tim Baker, Westford Food Pantry Board Member, Katie Russell, Cameron Senior Center Senior Assistant and Karen

Heitkamp, St. Vincent de Paul- St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish. "This was a tremendous year with the highest number of participants served and Katie, Karen and Tim did an outstanding job overseeing this important Thanksgiving Holiday Basket program," states Claro, COA Director of the Cameron.



Christmas/Holiday Boutique

**Spectacular holiday décor and gifts
for home, family and friends**

Nov. 26 – Dec. 1
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Cameron Senior Center
20 Pleasant St., Westford

Cameron Senior Center (continued)

Festive Happenings and much more around the Cameron

Holiday luncheon at the Westford Regency

**Sponsors: The Friends of the Cameron and
Cummings Foundation**

Monday, December 10th at noon.

We are happy to share with you an opportunity to stroll through the Festival of Trees sponsored by the Westford Family Funfest and enjoy some traditional holiday music played by our very own **UPBEATS Band starting at 10:30AM** in the hotel atrium prior to lunch. Make sure you cast your vote for your favorite tree and look for our very own Cameron tree entry. After your tree viewing enjoy a three-course holiday meal with salad, roast pork and gravy, starch and vegetable and dessert accompanied with tea and coffee. Cost: Friends members- 412 and Non-friends members-\$24. Reservation deadline is December 1st:

Call 978-692-5523. Transportation will be provided just call and reserve your ride at 978-399-2322.



Downsizing: Yikes! ~What is a Real Estate Transaction Like Today?

Kathy Cunningham from Coldwell Banker in Westford will be here with other professionals involved in the transaction~to tell you what you can expect~from the offer to the closing. ~ It will be demystified for you at this event on Dec.11th at 6:30pm at the Cameron Center. Please sign up at 978-692-5523.

(Don't miss)



Join us Fall/Winter Concert sponsored by WA

December 12, 2018

10:30- 11:30 AM at

Westford Perming Art Center

Complimentary lunch will be provided @ 11:45 AM

Please RSVP to 978-692-5523

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage-Westford gives substantial donation for fuel assistance



We are very fortunate to have Coldwell Banker provide over \$1800 to help ensure our older adults and families in crisis are warm and have their basic utility needs met. Pictured L-R (back row) Rachel Kiley, Marie Doctor, Maura Fitzgerald Paige Finnegan, (front row) Kathy Cunningham, Jennifer Claro COA director, Leslie Thomas, Janet Morano and Cheryl Major.

Recycling Commission

Alerts from the Westford Recycling Commission



PLASTIC BAGS, empty or filled, are NOT acceptable in recycling bins and toters.

TANGLERS (cords, coat hangers, light strings, plastic 6-pack rings, garden hoses, strings, ribbons, and chains) are prohibited from recycling bins and toters.

Empty. Clean. Dry.

The new way to recycle.

EMPTY - remove food or product residue.

CLEAN - rinse or wash empty containers.

DRY - let containers dry before placing in your recycling bin or toter.

NEW! Major recycling haulers in the state have agreed on a standard list of recyclables.

For the **Recyclopedia**:

Can I recycle this? visit <https://recyclesmartma.org/>. Bookmark this page!

Westford Leaf Collection SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

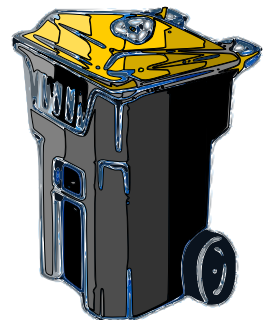
The cost is \$1.25 per bag with a minimum charge of \$20.00 per pick up and a minimum of 50 people must sign up. Call the Town Clerk's office at 978-692-5515 to register. Place your leaves, grass clippings and pine needles only into paper leaf bags and have them at the curb by 7 AM on the collection day. REMEMBER Leaves will not be picked up if they are not in PAPER LEAF BAGS. Attach a check payable to "Acme Waste Systems" to one of your leaf bags on collection day.

Plastic Bag Reduction Program

Westford's new bylaw to reduce plastic bag usage goes into effect on January 1, 2019.

Everyone is encouraged to B.Y.O.B. (Bring Your Own Bag) when shopping. For more information, call the Westford Board of Health 978-692-5509. Please visit www.westfordma.gov/recycling for your recycling and trash questions.

**Westford thanks you for recycling,
reducing, repurposing, and reusing!**



Community Preservation Committee

The Community Preservation Committee's (CPC) Annual Needs Assessment Hearing has been scheduled for:

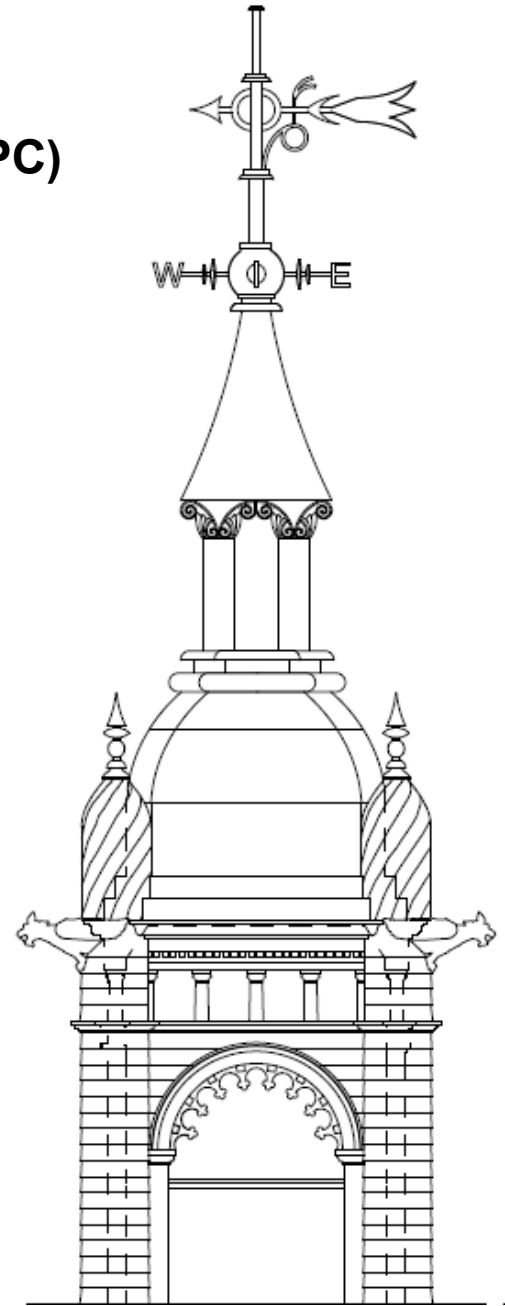
**Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 7:00 PM
Millennium School, Conference Room B
23 Depot Street Westford, MA 01886**

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) invites all Town Boards, Committees, and Residents to participate in this open forum to discuss what their priorities are regarding Community Preservation Funds in the following areas: **Open Space, Historic Preservation, Recreation, or Affordable Housing.**

This annual hearing is a great chance to let the CPC know of any potential project ideas you may have, as well as get your questions answered regarding the application process and Annual Town Meeting Timeline.

Everyone is welcome and no confirmation is necessary, however priority will be given to presenters who have scheduled ahead of time.

For additional information or to let us know you will be attending, please contact Jesse Beyer, CPC Administrator at (978) 399-2905 or jbeyer@westfordma.gov



<https://westfordma.gov/392/Community-Preservation-Committee>

Boston Road Reconstruction Project

Town Engineer Paul Starratt and Jake Carmody from TEC, Inc., presented preliminary plans of the Boston Road Reconstruction Project to the Pedestrian Safety Committee on Wednesday, November 14th at the Parish Center for the Arts. Over 30 abutters to the project were in attendance and learned about the design process and the steps that are being taken to improve pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular traffic on Boston Road. The project will include a new sidewalk and bike lanes from the Town Center to the existing sidewalk network on Littleton Road. Other improvements include a new water main, updates to the stormwater management system and a new roadway. Attendees also learned about possibility of adding new traffic islands in Boston Road designed specifically to lower speeds on one of Westford's busiest corridors. The project is scheduled to begin some time in 2022 - 2023 with approximately \$6M in construction funding from MassDOT.



Preliminary plans are available online at www.westfordma.gov/engineering.

